REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed December 11, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, dependent claims 2-3 and 5-7 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as, beginning claims 2-3 and 5-6 with 'The' instead of 'A'. Claims 2-3 and 5-7 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by an article entitled "Kanji-to-Hiragana Conversion Based on a Length-Constrained N-Gram Analysis"

(Picone). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 5-12

are patentable over Picone for at least the following reasons.

Picone is directed to a kanji-to-hiragana conversion based on

a length-constrained n-gram analysis. Input text is converted to

hiragana-like symbol set that closely approximates the most common

pronunciation of the text. The input text is converted by

selecting the most probable sequence of n-grams that can be

concatenated to form the input text.

It is respectfully submitted that Picone does not teach or

suggest the present invention as recited in independent claims 1

and 8 which, amongst other patentable features, requires

(illustrative emphasis provided):

> performing a group on-reading for a group of a
> plurality of sequential kanji characters in the word
> including the kanji character being converted and
> choosing a most frequent group reading associated with
> the group, splitting up results of the group on-
> reading to obtain individual readings of each
> individual kanji character in the group.

These features, such as "splitting up results of the group on-

reading to obtain individual readings" are nowhere taught or

suggested in Picone.

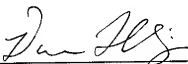Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent 1

and 8 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3 and 5-12 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Claims 9-12 also include patentable features, since Picone does not teach or suggest storing in a memory reading options with relative frequency of occurrences for user selection of a desired reading, as recited in claims 9 and 11, let alone teaching or suggesting that the reading options are sorted by the relative frequency of occurrences, as recited in claims 10 and 12.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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